

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /172 W
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O R 051510Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5112

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8691

USUN PASS AMBASSADOR VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, IS, UN

SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S UNGA SPEECH: ISRAEL

1. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MOBUTU DURING HIS UNGA SPEECH OCT 4 OF BREAK IN ZAIRE'S RELATIONS WITH ISREAL CAME AS SURPRISE, ALTHOUGH THIS MOVE HAD BEEN FORESHADOWED IN HIS SEPT 16 STATEMENT THAT ZAIRE WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A FRIEND (ISRAEL) AND A BROTHER (EGYPT). WE BELIEVE MOBUTU WAS MOTIVATED BY HIS DESIRE (A) TO PALY A GREATER LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA AND (B) TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FOR HIS GA ADDRESS. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE HE BROKE WITH ISRAEL AS RESULT OF PRESSURE OR PROMISE OF FINANCIAL AID FROM QADHAFI.

2. WHILE OCT 4 ANNOUNCEMENT WAS LOGICAL EXTENSION OF MOBUTU'S EARLIER REMARKS, TIMING WAS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO ISRAELI AND BELGIAN EMBASSIES HERE. AS REPORTED EARLIER (KINSHASA 8349) OUTGOING ISRAELI AMBASSADOR WAS INCLINED
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TO BELIEVE DECISION ON POSSIBLE BREAK WITH ISRAEL WOULD

BE TAKEN SOMETIME MUCH LATER. RASONS FOR THIS WERE:

(A) WARM TONE OF MOBUTU'S FAREWILL AUDIENCE WITH
AMB MORRAT.

(B) FACT THAT ZAIRE HAD GRANTEE AGREEMENT TO MORRAT'S
SUCCESSOR WITHIN 24 HOURS;

(C) MOBUTU'S GESTURE IN RECEIVING DEPARTING CHIEF OF
ISRAEL'S MILITARY MISSION;

(D) WHAT AMB MORRAT UNDERSTOOD WAS MOBUTU'S AGREEMENT
TO MEET WITH FONMIN EBAN IN NEW YORK.

3. CONCERNING MOTIVATION, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE
THAT IN VIEW OF MOBUTU'S DESIRE TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE
ON THE AFRICAN SCENE, HE DOES NOT WISH TO BE AMONG THE
LAST OF THE AFRICAN STATES TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL BUT
RATHER SEEKS TO INFLUENCE THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS. WE
KNOW THAT MOBUTU REGARDS QADHAFI AS A RELIGIOUS FANATIC
AND THAT HE IS CONTEMPTUOUS OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS
SUCH AS NGOUABI WHO HAVE BROKEN WITH ISRAEL IN THE
EXPECTATION OF LIBYAN LARGESSE.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT ENTERED
INTO MOBUTU'S DECISION MAY HAVE BEEN THE HOPE THAT BY
BREAKING WITH ISRAEL SOME OF THE WEALTHY ARAB STATES
MAY BEGIN INVESTING IN ZAIRE.

5. AS OF THE PRESENT, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT MOBUTU'S
DECISION MEANS FOR THE ISRAELI CITIZENS WHO ARE EMPLOYED
BY ORT IN THE OFFICE DES ROUTES. AMB. MORRAT HAS
QUERIED JERUSALEM BUT HAS NOT HAD A REPLY. AN ORT
OFFICIAL BASED IN GENEVA SENT MESSAGE TO USAID OCT 5 ANNOUNCING
HE WAS EN ROUTE TO KINSHASA, AND ASKING FOR EMBASSY
ASSISTANCE IN IMMIGRATION FIELD. EMBASSY HOPES GOI WILL NOT
MAKE PRECIPITATE DECISION WITHDRAW ORT ISRAELI CITIZENS SINCE
THIS COULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON OFFICE DES ROUTES PROGRAM.

6. WENOTE MOBUTU SOUGHT TO SOFTEN BLOW SOMEWHAT BY
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RECOGNIZING THAT ISRAEL IS A FRIEND AND THE RIGHT OF THE
ISRAELI PEOPLE TO EXIST.
NEWLIN

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